

LATIN AMERICA

We have encountered no unusual difficulties in securing economic information from and about Latin America. The only exception is Argentina, where the government has severely curtailed publication and dissemination of statistical data. Our weakness in the Latin American area stems from the circumstance that Latin American statistical services are at times faulty and are not as complete as they are in the United States or in Europe. Moreover, economic reporting has not been attuned to the requirements of intelligence research (This weakness is, I understand, now being remedied).

We have on the whole been able to meet intelligence research requirements, although at times it has been necessary to operate with somewhat less than up to date information. Utilization of Latin American statistical data is at times handicapped by shortage of manpower.

Perhaps the most notable gap in our intelligence potential is in the area of capabilities in terms of desirable and attainable objectives of economic development in Latin America. We do not know enough about the orientation of "economic thinking" of those in Latin America who influence and direct economic policies. This is a particularly important aspect of the process of estimating probable developments.

We are reasonably well equipped to deal with economic trends and changes in Latin America as a whole, although in

some respects and for some regions our information is not very much more than an educated guess (national income, rate of accumulation of capital, etc.). But even these gaps are being gradually filled out as a result of expansion of improvement in the national and international statistical services.